

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

OLC 72-1016

22 SEP 1972

Mr. John Lehman
National Security Council Staff
Room 376 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D C. 20506

Dear John:

Per our discussion at the LIG meeting on the 13th regarding the possibility of Presidential veto of the Cooper bill which would make intelligence material freely available to the Congress, I enclose herewith copies of:

- a. A letter from the Director to Chairman Stennis explaining the serious problems the bill would create for the intelligence community.
- b. A letter from Admiral Anderson to the President on the same subject.
- c. Dave Abshire's letter to Chairman Fulbright.

I believe these letters contain all the major points which might be made in support of a recommendation for veto in the event that some version of the Cooper bill is ever passed. We have been in touch with the Senate Armed Services Committee, which shares with the Foreign Relations Committee jurisdiction over the bill, and which apparently has no intention of acting upon it in the foreseeable future. However, as Dave Abshire has indicated, some version may show up as a rider or amendment to other legislation. Therefore I agree that the possibility of a veto situation shouldn't be overlooked.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Besides the problems the bill would create for the intelligence community, I should think it might have serious implications on the policy level. If the intelligence input to the formulation of foreign and defense policy is freely available to the Congress, it no doubt will become increasingly accessible to the public media. Not only would the resulting security breaches cause many of our sources to dry up, but our foreign adversaries and domestic critics would have the advantage of knowing just what kind of intelligence we were operating from. In addition, the total intelligence take regarding any given situation is likely to lend itself to a wide variety of interpretations. If this material is available for scrutiny on the Hill, chances are that someone can find something in it to prove any point he wants to make or to discredit any policy he doesn't like.

I am enclosing a couple of copies of this which you may wish to pass on to John Deane or whoever else among your colleagues may be concerned. Let me know if you would like anything further.

Sincerely,



STATINTL

John M. Maury
Legislative Counsel

Enclosures

Distribution:

Original - Addressee (3 cc)

1 - Subject

① - Chrono

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY